

REMARKS

These remarks are in response to the Office Action dated July 8, 2009. This reply is submitted with a *Request for a Three Month Extension of Time*. At the time of the Office Action, claims 5-7, 9-11, 14, 16-20, 23, 24, and 26-48 were pending in the application.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 5 and 36 have been amended. No new subject matter has been added. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein.

Claims 5-7, 9-11, 14, 16-20, 23, 24 and 26-48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 5-7, 9-11, 14, 16-20, 23, 24, 26-46 and 48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. The rejections are set forth in more detail below.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 5-7, 9-11, 14, 16-20, 23, 24 and 26-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 6 has been canceled. As such, the rejection to claim 6 is moot.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that the limitation “and at least 0.525 mm” recited in independent claims 5 and 36 is not supported in the specification. Applicant has amended independent claims 5 and 36 so as to overcome the Examiner’s rejection thereto.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 5-7, 9, 14, 16, 18-20, 23, 24, 26 and 28-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0155871 to Maekawa (hereinafter referred to as “Maewaka”), in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0174595 to Wilkinson et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Wilkinson”). Claims 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maekawa, in view of Wilkinson, and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0155247 to Arakawa (hereinafter referred to as “Arakawa”). Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maekawa, in view of Wilkinson,

and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0130990 to Kitamura (hereinafter after referred to as "Kitamura"). Claim 27 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maekawa, in view of Wilkinson, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,324,155 to Maeda (hereinafter referred to as "Maeda"). Claims 36, 40-43, 45, 46 and 48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maekawa, in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0218966 to Kuchman (hereinafter referred to as "Kuchman"). Claim 37 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maekawa, in view of Kuchman, and further in view of Wilkinson. Claims 39 and 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable Maekawa, in view of Kuchman, and further in view of Arakawa. Claim 27 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable Maekawa, in view of Kuchman, and further in view of Maeda. Claim 44 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable Maekawa, in view of Kuchman, and further in view of U.S. Publication 2006/0140108 to Schreiber (hereinafter "Schreiber"). Claim 6 has been canceled. As such, the rejection to claim 6 is moot.

Applicant insists that the attached letter (prepared by applicant) be submitted by applicant's counsel in response to the Examiner's rejection to claims 5-7, 9-11, 14, 16-20, 23, 24, 26-46 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. §103. This letter is marked as Exhibit A. Applicant believes that the attached letter provides a complete response to each of the Examiner's rejections.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendment and attached exhibit, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims. Please charge any deficiencies, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

Application No. 10/578,125
Amendment dated January 8, 2010
Reply to Office Action of July 8, 2009

Docket No.: 18050/0207970-US0

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Respectfully submitted,

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